GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6422
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Cloud Seeding
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has efficient technology for cloud seeding to improve rains in drought prone areas;

(b) if so, whether Government has used this technology in last three years,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which this technology has proved useful?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) No Madam. As things stand today, artificial rain making techniques involving cloud seeding cannot be used for bringing adequate rains to rainfall deficit/drought areas. Such efforts can only induce potential preexisting clouds, already passing over a given place, to produce rain only if organized weather modification intervention becomes successful.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is putting its effort in understanding the rain enhancement in clouds through studying cloud microphysical characteristics through a research program viz., Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX).

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present scientific knowledge suggests artificial rain making techniques involving cloud seeding cannot be used as an alternate for bringing rain to rainfall deficit/drought areas. These techniques can only induce potential pre-existing clouds with adequate cloud development, to produce enhanced quantum of rain.